

## 21 C.J.S. Courts § 9

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### Courts

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### I. In General

### B. General Classification of Courts

## § 9. Civil courts or criminal courts

[Topic Summary](#) | [References](#) | [Correlation Table](#)

### West's Key Number Digest

West's Key Number Digest, [Courts](#)  42(1), 42(6), 178

**Courts may be designated as exclusively civil courts or criminal courts, and courts of general jurisdiction may be courts of both civil and criminal matters.**

State courts may be designated by statute as civil courts,<sup>1</sup> criminal courts,<sup>2</sup> or, in the case of courts of general jurisdiction, courts of civil and criminal matters.<sup>3</sup> A designated criminal court may exercise limited jurisdiction in an incidental civil matter arising in the course of a criminal matter,<sup>4</sup> but a statute specifically precluding civil jurisdiction in a criminal court may prevail as the more specifically applicable jurisdictional provision, as opposed to a general jurisdictional statute.<sup>5</sup>

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### Footnotes

- 1 Mass.—[Retirement Bd. of Somerville v. Buonomo](#), 467 Mass. 662, 6 N.E.3d 1069 (2014).
- 2 Tenn.—[Clinton Books, Inc. v. City of Memphis](#), 197 S.W.3d 749 (Tenn. 2006).  
Tex.—[Texas Dept. of Public Safety v. Styron](#), 226 S.W.3d 576 (Tex. App. Houston 1st Dist. 2007).  
As to the criminal jurisdiction of courts, see C.J.S., [Criminal Law](#) §§ 189 to 222.
- 3 Kan.—[In re A.A.](#), 51 Kan. App. 2d 794, 354 P.3d 1205 (2015).

Minn.—*Mertins v. Commissioner of Natural Resources*, 755 N.W.2d 329 (Minn. Ct. App. 2008).

Miss.—*Knox v. State*, 75 So. 3d 1030 (Miss. 2011).

Nev.—*Halverson v. Hardcastle*, 123 Nev. 245, 163 P.3d 428 (2007).

Wis.—*In re Ambac Assur. Corp.*, 2012 WI 22, 339 Wis. 2d 48, 810 N.W.2d 450 (2012).

4 Tex.—*Texas Dept. of Public Safety v. Ackerman*, 31 S.W.3d 672 (Tex. App. Waco 2000).

5 Tex.—*State ex rel. Curry v. Gilfeather*, 937 S.W.2d 46 (Tex. App. Fort Worth 1996).

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